

REGULAR NORTH PROVIDENCE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
JANUARY 25, 2012

The North Providence School Committee met on January 25, 2012 at 6:10 p.m. in the Administration Conference Room at the High School. Members present were Chairman Marciano, Mrs. Reall, Mr. Iannetta, Mr. Palmieri, Mrs. Picard and Ms. Leva. Also present were Superintendent Ottaviano, Mr. Ryan and Mr. Scungio. Mr. McNamee, Mr. Tedeschi and Mr. Milazzo were present for the Regular Session only. Appropriate disclosure was made by the Chair concerning compliance with R.I. General Laws 42-46-5(a)(1) indicating that any person to be discussed had been appropriately notified.

Motion by Mrs. Reall, seconded by Mrs. Picard and carried to go into open session at 6:10 p.m. The regular session was recessed to go into Executive Session at 6:10 p.m. The regular session reconvened at 7:30 p.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order.

II. SALUTE TO FLAG

The Chair led the assembly in the pledge of allegiance and a moment of silence. The Chair asked that everyone take a moment to remember former Governor Garrahy who passed away this morning.

III. CHAIR TO REPORT OUT ANY VOTES TAKEN IN EXECUTIVE SESSION AND RECEIVE MOTION BY COMMITTEE MEMBER TO SEAL EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES PURSUANT TO APPLICABLE PROVISIONS OF RIGL 42-46-(4) & (5).

The Chair reported that there were no votes taken in Executive Session.

IV. CORRESPONDENCE

The Chair next reported that there was no correspondence received.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS 3-4.

No comments were received.

VI. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. Monthly Financial Report.

Superintendent Ottaviano asked for the advice and consent of the Committee for approval of the January 25, 2012 Monthly Financial Report. Motion by Mr. Iannetta, seconded by Mrs. Picard and Mrs. Reall as to Resolution No. 12-01-01. Be it resolved that, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the N.P. School Committee vote to approve the December 14, 2011 Monthly Financial Report as submitted. A roll call vote was taken as follows: Ms. Leva, aye, Mr. Palmieri, aye, Mrs. Picard, aye, Mrs. Reall, aye, Mr. Iannetta, aye, and the Chair, aye. The motion carried by unanimous consent. Mrs. Reall added that it is a wonderful narrative.

2. Home Schooling Requests.

No requests were received.

3. Field Trips.

Superintendent Ottaviano read the Field Trip Requests and asked for the advice and consent of the Committee for approval of the Requests. Motion by Mr. Iannetta, seconded by Mrs. Reall as to Resolution No. 12-01-03. Be it resolved that, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the N.P. School Committee vote to approve the Field Trip Request as submitted and to request that the Superintendent speak with Mr. Flaherty regarding the details of the Rocking Horse Ranch. A roll call vote was taken as follows: Ms. Leva, aye, Mr. Palmieri, aye, Mrs. Picard, aye, Mrs. Reall, aye, Mr. Iannetta, aye and the Chair, aye. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

Next, the Chair welcomed Mr. Palmieri back and added that Mr. Cataldi is not present because he is ill.

4. Revised Use of Property Policy.

Ms. Leva explained that the Policy included in the packets is not the up-to-date one because it does not include the motion made in October of 2007 which exempted the four different leagues because of their in-kind services. Therefore, the Policy needs to be revised to include the change. Members of the Committee made other suggested changes, including the school PTAs.

5. Overview of NEASC Visit.

Mr. Goho first spoke about the NEASC self-study and passed out a handout regarding the upcoming NAASC Visit. He asked the members of the NEASC Steering Committee to stand. Next, Mr. Goho gave a PowerPoint Presentation outlining the upcoming NEASC visit. The Chair thanked Mr. Goho for his comprehensive presentation.

6. NPHS – IPAD Pilot Presentation.

Ms. Branco spoke about how classrooms are changing and the iPad Pilot Program. Next, she asked one of her students, Robert, to give a presentation. Next, Ms. Pisano gave a brief presentation on how the students will use the iPad in the classroom.

7. Community Garden Request.

Superintendent Ottaviano recommended approval of the Community Garden Request as submitted. Motion by Mrs. Picard, seconded by Mr. Iannetta as to Resolution No. 12-01-04. Be it resolved that, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the N.P. School Committee vote to approve the Community Garden Request as submitted. A roll call vote was taken as follows: Ms. Leva, aye, Mr. Palmieri, aye, Mrs. Picard, aye, Mrs. Reall, aye, Mr. Iannetta, aye, and the Chair, aye. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

8. Cafeteria Upgrade.

Mr. McNamee spoke about the cost of the cafeteria upgrade at the Stephen Olney School of \$18,000.00. The majority of the cost will be to upgrade the outdated equipment. Next, Derek Hague, Food Service Director gave a PowerPoint Presentation highlighting before and after photos of updated cafeterias. Mr. McNamee added that the rest of the schools will be done in the next couple of years. The cost of the updates will be absorbed by the lunch program. Motion by Mrs. Picard, seconded by Mrs. Reall and Mr. Iannetta and the entire Committee as to Resolution No. 12-01-05. Be it resolved that, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the N.P. School Committee vote to approve the Cafeteria Upgrade as submitted. A roll call vote was taken as follows: Ms. Leva, aye, Mr. Palmieri, aye, Mrs. Picard, aye, Mrs. Reall, aye, Mr. Iannetta, aye, and the Chair, aye. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

9. Parental Payment Option – School Lunch Program.

Mr. McNamee spoke about the recommendation from the Food Service Director, Derek, to add \$.25 to the cost of the lunch program. It is recommended that the change be made as soon as possible with a goal of February 6th. Motion by Mr. Iannetta, seconded by Mrs. Reall as to Resolution No. 12-01-06. Be it resolved that, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the N.P. School Committee vote to approve the Parental Payment Option – School Lunch Program as submitted. A roll call vote was taken as follows: Ms. Leva, aye, Mr. Palmieri, aye, Mrs. Picard, aye, Mrs. Reall, aye, Mr.

Iannetta, aye, and the Chair, aye. The motion carried by unanimous consent. Mr. McNamee added that the District would like to go to the automatic payment plan for the parents.

10. North Providence School Equal Opportunity and Non-Discrimination Policy.

Superintendent Ottaviano recommended approval of the North Providence School Equal Opportunity and Non-Discrimination Policy as submitted. Motion by Mrs. Picard, seconded by Mrs. Reall and Ms. Leva as to Resolution No. 12-01-07. Be it resolved that, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the N.P. School Committee vote to approve the North Providence School Equal Opportunity and Non-Discrimination Policy as submitted. A roll call vote was taken as follows: Ms. Leva, aye, Mr. Palmieri, aye, Mrs. Picard, aye, Mrs. Reall, aye, Mr. Iannetta, aye, and the Chair, aye. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

VII. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORT.

1. School Committee Officers.

Mrs. Reall requested that out of respect for our colleague who is not here, that the vote for School Committee officers be put off until next month. She added that it would be nice to know ahead of time who is

interested in those positions. Mrs. Picard said that she would like to nominate Mr. Marciano for Chair and Mr. Iannetta for Vice Chair. M. Palmieri added that he would like to nominate Mrs. Picard as Clerk. The Chair stated that he would take nominations but would not vote on the officers tonight. Mr. Palmieri felt that everyone should be postponed.

2. Designation of Counsel/Clerk.

The vote for Counsel/Clerk was postponed.

3. Policy: League Exceptions. – Mr. Palmieri.

The matter was already discussed.

4. Replacement of Superintendent's Secretary – Mr. Palmieri.

Mr. Palmieri spoke about the retirement of the Superintendent's secretary. He felt that we should look into the consolidation of some positions and take a real hard look at consolidating jobs. He added that he knows that everyone is working real hard. Motion by Mr. Palmieri, seconded by Ms. Leva not to fill the position at this time until we hear from the Technology Committee and there is a plan in place. A roll call vote was taken as follows: Ms. Leva, aye, Mr. Palmieri, aye, Mrs. Picard, aye, Mrs. Reall, aye, Mr. Iannetta, aye, and the Chair, aye. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

Motion by Ms. Leva, seconded by Mrs. Reall to temporarily bring back the retired Superintendent's Confidential Secretary for two days per week until a decision can be made. A roll call vote was taken as follows: Ms. Leva, aye, Mr. Palmieri, nay, Mrs. Picard, aye, Mrs. Reall, aye, Mr. Iannetta, aye, and the Chair, aye. The motion carried by a vote of 5 to 1.

5. Personal Response to Arnold Letter – Mr. Palmieri.

Mr. Palmieri stated that this is not about the Committee per se. Mr. Iannetta thanked Mr. Arnold for the information. He spoke about the fact that everyone on the Committee said yes to the truck. The Committee just wanted the truck to be safe. Superintendent Ottaviano added that Mr. Arnold is more than welcome to come to the meetings every month and to meet with Mr. McNamee and request whatever information you want. With respect to the no child left behind, the state is in the process of requesting a waiver. She felt parts of NCLB highlight negativity and it is not a true indication of districts accomplishments. The standards are set by the federal government. Mrs. Picard felt that the article was offensive to the School Committee. Members of the Committee offered comments.

6. Books, Technology, Supplies – Mr. Palmieri.

Mrs. Picard spoke about the fact that the North Providence School Committee needs to take a hard look at our technology. Mr. Ryan

presented the Technology Plan. He added that one of the problems is that we don't have an integrated systematic approach to technology. Motion by Mrs. Picard, seconded by Mr. Palmieri and Ms. Leva to approve the Technology Plan as presented. A roll call vote was taken as follows: Mr. Leva, aye, Mr. Palmieri, aye, Mrs. Picard, aye, Mrs. Reall, aye, Mr. Iannetta, aye, and the Chair, aye. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

The Chair next asked that the Approval of Contracts be taken next.

10. Approval of Contracts.

Extension to Elementary Principal Contract.

Motion by Mr. Palmieri, seconded by Mrs. Picard and Mr. Iannetta to extend the Contract for the Greystone Elementary School Principal, Lori DeSimone, for one year. A roll call vote was taken as follows: Ms. Leva, aye, Mr. Palmieri, aye, Mrs. Picard, aye, Mrs. Reall, aye, Mr. Iannetta, aye, and the Chair, aye. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

Truancy/Residency/Registration Officer.

Motion by Mrs. Picard, seconded by Mr. Iannetta to approve the Contract for Deb Pellegrino as presented. A roll call vote was taken as follows: Ms. Leva, aye, Mr. Palmieri, aye, Mrs. Picard, aye, Mrs.

Reall, aye, Mr. Iannetta, aye, and the Chair, aye. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

7. Maintenance Position – Mr. Palmieri.

Mr. Palmieri asked for clarification as to why the position is not being filled if we are hiring a substitute every day. Mr. Milazzo explained that the substitute only worked four days for November and December. He added that there is only one person for 11 buildings – 9 schools. Substitutes worked for special projects the school committee previously approved i.e. gas conversion and wiring for technology. He said it saves the school department unnecessary expenses when he uses his own people.

8. Discussion Regarding Kids Club – Mr. Palmieri.

Mr. McNamee reported that there is about \$20,000.00 in the account this year – the Town is holding it as per the ordinance.

9. Technology Plan Subcommittee Report – Mrs. Picard.

This item was already discussed.

VIII. REQUESTS TO ADDRESS COMMITTEE

Mr. Perry addressed the Committee regarding safety issues at the Greystone School.

He spoke on behalf of the neighbors on Murphy Court and the traffic congestion, excessive trash, and overall ignorance of the parents who block the road and the driveways. He said that the police and the Town said that it is not a Town problem; it is a School Committee issue. Several neighbors offered negative comments and expressed frustration with their attempts to remedy the problems. The Committee made suggestions that correspondence be sent to the Mayor and the Council. It was the general consensus that the matter be referred to the Building Subcommittee.

IX. NEW BUSINESS.

1. Bids.

Superintendent Ottaviano asked for the advice and consent of the Committee to award the bid for Yearbook Publication to Herff Jones for 2013, 2014, and 2015 based on the best price, quality and service. Motion by Mr. Iannetta, seconded by Mrs. Picard as to Resolution No. 12-01-12. Be it resolved that, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the N.P. School Committee vote to award the bid for Yearbook Publication to Herff Jones. A roll call vote was taken as follows: Ms. Leva, aye, Mrs. Picard, aye, Mrs. Reall, aye, Mr. Iannetta, aye, and the Chair, aye. The motion carried by unanimous consent of

the members present.

2. Retirements.

Superintendent Ottaviano asked for the advice and consent of the Committee for approval of the retirement of Linda J. Markey. Motion by Mr. Iannetta, seconded by Mrs. Reall as to Resolution No. 12-01-14.

Be it resolved that, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the N.P. School Committee vote to approve the retirement of Linda J. Markey as submitted. A roll call vote was taken as follows: Ms. Leva, aye, Mrs. Picard, aye, Mrs. Reall, aye, Mr. Iannetta, aye, and the Chair, aye. The motion carried by unanimous consent of the members present.

3. Leaves of Absence.

Superintendent Ottaviano recommended that the Committee approve the Leave of Absence Requests from Joseph Armenti – Custodian – 2nd Shift NPHS Paid FMLA Leave Effective – February 6, 2012 through February 27, 2012 and Unpaid FMLA Leave Effective – February 28, 2012 through a date to be determined, Carolyn Briel – Crossing Guard – Centredale Elementary School – Post – Smith Street and Ferncliff Avenue – Paid FMLA Leave January 3, 2012 through January 9, 2012 Unpaid FMLA Leave January 10, 2012 through January 31, 2012, Ryan Clinton – Middle School Art Teacher – Ricci Middle School Paid Medical Leave January 26, 2012 through

February 10, 2012, Kerri Crescenzo-Croft – Special Education Resource Teacher – Greystone/McGuire Elementary Schools – Unpaid Leave of Absence – Effective January 23, 2012 through the remainder of the 2011/2012 school year, Helia Deshong – Crossing Guard – Post – Mineral Spring Avenue and Woodward Road – Effective – January 4, 2012 through March 30, 2012, Sheri Farrell – School Nurse/Teacher – McGuire Elementary School – Unpaid Leave of Absence – Effective – January 28, 2012 through February 4, 2012, Pamela Kashmanian – Teacher Assistant – Greystone Elementary School – Paid FMLA Leave Effective January 3, 2012 through January 20, 2012, Christen Magill – Assistant Principal – NPHS Paid Medical Leave – January 3, 2012 through January 22, 2012, Beverly Roventine – Middle School Science Teacher – Birchwood Middle School – Paid FMLA Leave Effective November 29, 2011 through January 12, 2012, and Jillian Ruggerio – Integrated Pre-School Special Education Teacher – Greystone Elementary School – Unpaid Leave of Absence – Effective January 23, 2012 through the remainder of the 2011/2012 school year.

Motion by Mrs. Reall, seconded by Mr. Iannetta as to Resolution No. 12-01-15. Be it resolved that, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the N. P. School Committee vote to approve the Leaves of Absence requests as presented. A roll call vote was taken as follows: Ms. Leva, aye, Mrs. Picard, aye, Mrs. Reall, Mr. Iannetta, aye, and the Chair, aye. The motion carried by unanimous consent of the members present.

4. Appointments.

Superintendent Ottaviano asked for the advice and consent of the School Committee for the following appointments: Kerry Donahue – Integrated Pre-School Special Education Teacher – Greystone Elementary School – 1st Step BA – 2nd semester only – Effective January 23, 2012 through the remainder of the 2011/2012 School Year, Lisa Knudsen – Speech/Language Pathologist – Centredale Elementary School – 6th step MA – Effective February 6, 2012 (Pending BCI), Brian Tarro – Teacher Assistant – Birchwood Middle School Effective January 26, 2012, and Michael Tuorto – Assistant Girls’ Softball Fast Pitch Coach – NPHS Effective – 2011/2012 Season Only (1 Year Only.) Motion by Mr. Iannetta, seconded by Mrs. Picard as to Resolution No. 12-01-16. Be it resolved that, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the N.P. School Committee vote to approve the appointments as submitted. A roll call vote was taken as follows: Ms. Leva, aye, Mrs. Picard, aye, Mrs. Reall, aye, Mr. Iannetta, aye, and the Chair, aye. The motion carried by unanimous consent of the members present. The Chair asked the appointees present to stand and receive congratulations and applause.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

No Old Business was presented.

XI. USE OF PROPERTY REQUESTS

Superintendent Ottaviano recommended that the Committee grant advice and consent to the approval of the Use of Property Requests submitted which were not previously approved, based on School Committee Policy, availability and the request meeting all the necessary conditions. Motion by Mrs. Picard, seconded by Mr. Iannetta as to Resolution No. 12-01-17. Be it resolved that, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the North Providence School Committee grant advice and consent to the approval of the Use of Property Requests as submitted. A roll call vote was taken as follows: Ms. Leva, aye, Mrs. Picard, aye, Mrs. Reall, aye, Mr. Iannetta, aye, and the Chair, aye. The motion carried by unanimous consent of the members present.

XII. APPROVAL OF BILLS

Superintendent Ottaviano recommended approval of January 2012 List of Bills as presented and submitted to the Committee. Motion by Mrs. Picard, seconded by Mr. Iannetta as to Resolution No. 12-01-18. Be it resolved that, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the North Providence School Committee grants advice and consent to approve and pay the January 2012 List of Bills in the amount of \$761,471.30. A roll call vote was taken as follows: Ms. Leva, aye, Mrs. Picard, aye, Mrs. Reall, aye, Mr. Iannetta, aye, and the Chair, aye.

The motion carried by unanimous consent of the members present.

XIII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Mrs. Picard, seconded Mrs. Reall and Mr. Iannetta as to Resolution No. 12-01-19. Be it resolved that, at the Recommendation of the Superintendent, the North Providence School Committee approve and seal the Minutes of the December 14, 2011 Executive Session in accordance with R.I.G.L. 42-46-4 and 5. A roll call vote was taken as follows: Ms. Leva, aye, Mrs. Picard, aye, Mrs. Reall, aye, Mr. Iannetta, aye, and the Chair, aye. The motion carried by unanimous consent of the members present.

Motion by Mrs. Picard, seconded by Mr. Iannetta and Mrs. Reall as to Resolution No. 12-1-19. Be it resolved that, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the N.P. School Committee vote to approve the Minutes of the December 14, 2011 School Committee Meeting as presented. A roll call vote was taken as follows: Ms. Leva, aye, Mrs. Picard, aye, Mrs. Reall, aye, Mr. Iannetta, aye, and the Chair, aye. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

XIV. PUBLIC COMMENTS IN AGENDA ITEMS 7 - 13.

Public comments were received.

XV. PENDING BUSINESS

No pending business was discussed.

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mrs. Picard, seconded by Mr. Iannetta and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 10:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Margie Caranci

**Recording Secretary of the North Providence
School Committee**

Date Submitted to Committee:

Date Approved by the Committee: